

IN SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES.

DECEMBER 29, 1847.

Submitted, and ordered to be printed.

Mr. BREESE made the following

REPORT:

[To accompany bill S. No. 11.]

The Committee on Public Lands, to whom was referred the bill and accompanying papers to compensate John M. Moore, have had the same under consideration, and ask leave to report :

That the bill referred to received the careful examination of the Committee on Public Lands at the last session of Congress, which received their favorable action, as appears from the following report, which they adopt as part of their report. The committee, however, recommend that the bill be so amended as to restrict the compensation to be paid to Mr. Moore for his services as Acting Commissioner of the General Land Office, deducting therefrom the amount he received as chief clerk during that time. The bill is accordingly reported with that amendment.

IN SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES.—February 2, 1847.

Mr. BREESE made the following report:

The Committee to whom was referred the petition of John M. Moore, have examined his claim, and beg leave report :

That the memorialist was called to the office of chief clerk of the General Land Office in 1821, which he was peculiarly qualified to fill by several years' devotion to business as a clerk in that office prior to that time, and remained in that situation till 1846, a period of twenty-five years.

During this time, the most string and important events of the land system transpired, involving the vast mass of legislation, and necessary instructions connected therewith, by which that system has gradually been evolved to its present perfection.

The various laws relative to the survey of the public lands; to

pre-emption rights; for the relief of purchasers under the credit system, then heavily indebted to the government; for bringing lands into market, and issuing patents therefor; for securing prompt and faithful returns of moneys received; for the settlement of private claims; for grants to the new States of lands for school purposes, internal improvements, public buildings, county seats, &c.; for the issue of scrip of various kinds, especially for military services, and for the establishment of new land and surveying districts, were chiefly all passed during the incumbency of the memorialist. Those laws were necessarily deficient in details, and frequently incongruous and insufficient to carry out the objects for which they were passed.

Those details and deficiencies had to be supplied, and those incongruities reconciled, by circulars of instruction from the General Land Office; and so ably has this been done, that those circulars have become precedents and governing principles in the legislative and judicial branches of the government. They have introduced order and harmony into the surveys of the public domain, so that the principles and practices of any one district give the key to the whole—all being governed by the same fixed rules. The same may be said of pre-emption rights, and of all other entries and locations of land, of the receipt of scrip, of the rendition of returns, and the accountability of receivers—all of which, being governed by rules and regulations thus emanating from the General Land Office, present a uniformity of action and result not excelled in any other branch of the public service.

The preparation of these important circulars of instruction necessarily devolved on the memorialist, from his position, and the fact that the frequent mutations in the office of Commissioner prevented the talented gentlemen holding that station from obtaining that intimate acquaintance with the details of business absolutely necessary to qualify them for that duty. To enable him to discharge the duties thus devolved on him, it appears that he labored not only during the regular business hours, but frequently until after midnight, devoting more than double the time usually given to business, to the entire neglect of his private affairs, and at the sacrifice of his health and comfort.

While the external business of the office was thus ably carried on, its internal affairs were managed with equal talent. The order and harmony obtained in the former were introduced into the latter, so that all letters, documents, and records in the office could be referred to with the utmost facility; and the whole business of the office, in all its relations, progressed with harmony and despatch. The induction into duties, frequently of the most complicated character, of new incumbents, both commissioners and clerks, seemed specially to belong to the memorialist, and required of him much care, time, and patience. The system of rigid economy introduced by him into the disbursement of the contingent fund of the General Land Office is worthy of special commendation, and has saved to the government vastly more than the whole compensation paid for his services during his retention of office. By care, foresight, and

economy, shortly after entering on the duties of his office, he effected a reduction of fifty per cent. in the cost of parchments; the benefits of which will be understood when it is remembered what a large quantity of those articles has been, and is, annually purchased by that office. The same system was applied to the disbursements of the contingent funds of the various local offices; and thus, while every article was procured which was necessary for the prompt execution of the public service, and the careful preservation of the archives and other property of the government, wasteful or unnecessary expenditures were effectually prohibited.

In thus commenting on the duties and labors of the memorialist, your committee do not wish to be understood as detracting, in the slightest degree, from the credit justly due the other officers of the Land Department, all of whom no doubt discharged their respective duties efficiently and conscientiously. But those devolved on the memorialist by law required of him a general supervision and direction of the business of the office, under the Commissioner, besides the current and heavy correspondence of his own desk; and hence the general principles of action inculcated by those circulars were specially known to him, and they could not therefore have been as well prepared by another. To do this, however, in addition to his regular business, required all the time and attention of the petitioner, who, being next in rank to the Commissioner, was required to discharge the duties of that officer whenever he was absent, or unable from any cause to perform duty; and as no provision was, or could, from the intricate nature of the service, be made during those periods for an acting chief clerk, the duties of both offices then necessarily devolved upon, and were performed by him, generally without an acting appointment from the President. Hence it may be readily understood that his position was one of unceasing labor and care, both in and out of office hours.

For all this extra labor and time spent, the benefits of which are now enjoyed by the teeming millions of the land States, in the security of their titles, and the certainty of their landmarks; for the economy and care thus introduced into the service, by which thousands are annually saved to the government; and for health destroyed in days and nights of ceaseless toil to accomplish these objects, the memorialist asks no extra compensation, but simply prays that, for the short intervals in which, in addition to the duties of his office, he virtually discharged those of the Commissioner, the accounting officers of the treasury may be authorized to allow him the compensation fixed by law for those duties.

The committee, regarding this claim as one of peculiar merit, and specially entitled to the favorable consideration of Congress, and finding it, moreover, sustained by several precedents, report a bill for the relief of the memorialist, and submit herewith the evidence on which they have based their action.

GENERAL LAND OFFICE,
March 15th, 1821.

SIR: The chief clerkship in this office being vacant, I request you to inform me whether you will accept it.

I am, very respectfully, yours,

JOSIAH MEIGS.

MR. JOHN M. MOORE,
Clerk in the General Land Office.

GENERAL LAND OFFICE,
March 15, 1821.

DEAR SIR: I have received your letter of this day, offering to me the situation of chief clerkship of this office, now in your gift. I am as sensibly aware as any individual can be of the present disagreeable state of things in the General Land Office, and it is needless to assure you that I would be the last to add to their aggravation. On *Monday* last, when the situation was offered to me verbally, in the event of Mr. Gardner being displaced, although your proposition was as unlooked for by me as any one of the late transactions, I immediately took as sudden a determination as to the course that duty to myself compelled me to pursue, as far as these events might affect me.

After maturely revolving consequences, and viewing the subject in every possible light, I have come to the conclusion that to accept of your proffered kindness would involve myself in *more* difficulties than have *ever yet* attended the situation.

The *Virginia business*, you well know, has never been a source of trouble or attention to *former* chief clerks. You also well know the difficulties attending it, and how constantly I should have to *teach* it to my successor, and watch his proceedings, while, at the same time, I should have to *unravel* the multifarious duties of the chief clerkship, quite new to me. Thus *peculiarly* situated, I well foresee that my constitution, ere twelve months, would fall an inevitable sacrifice to these fatiguing and extraordinary demands on incessant application to the duties of the two situations.

Perfectly sensible of your kind and friendly intentions in making the offer, and no less sincerely sorry that the duty I owe to self, necessitates me to pursue a conduct that may possibly stand in the way of the promotion of some of my colleagues in the office, I, with regret for this combination of untoward circumstances, have to decline your proposition; and am, with unfeigned respect and esteem,

Your very humble servant,

JOHN M. MOORE.

HON. JOSIAH MEIGS,
Commissioner of the General Land Office.

NOTE.—It is necessary and proper to state, by way of explanation, that before the close of the same day the duties previously

performed by J. M. M., in the same office, were assigned to a new clerk just then appointed and sworn in, thus leaving him without the alternative he desired; and he accordingly accepted the office tendered by the Commissioner.

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, { ss :
County of Washington, }

Personally appeared before me, one of the justices of the peace for the said county, John M. Moore, who made oath on the Holy Evangelists that he will faithfully and truly execute the trust committed to him, as chief clerk in the General Land Office of the United States.

Sworn before me, on the 16th day of March, 1821.

WILLIAM WATERS.

GENERAL LAND OFFICE, *January, 11, 1847.*

SIR: In reply to the inquiries contained in your letter of 7th instant, I have the honor to state--

1. "At what time was J. M. Moore appointed a clerk in the General Land Office?"

Answer. In the year 1813.

2. "When was he appointed chief clerk, and how long did he serve in that capacity?"

Answer. He was appointed chief clerk in March, 1821, and served to the 24th April, 1846.

3. "During the incumbency of Mr. Moore, by whom were the *circulars* of instructions from the General Land Office chiefly prepared?"

Answer. Until the reorganization of the office by the act of 4th July, 1836, it is believed that Mr. Moore, from 1821 to that period, prepared *all* circulars of instruction which emanated from the General Land Office; and, in addition thereto, (framed many) if not all of the various acts of Congress in relation to the public lands, which from time to time were passed by Congress.

Since the reorganization in 1836, and until the date on which he ceased to be an officer of the government, those circulars, &c., were chiefly prepared by Mr. Moore, and, when those circulars related to business pertaining to the duties of others than himself, in conjunction with the gentlemen having charge directly over the subjects to which they referred.

4. "How many pieces of parchment for land patents were purchased during Mr. Moore's incumbency of the office of chief clerk?" and

5. "What was the price of parchments when Mr. Moore was appointed chief clerk? what has been the price since? and what amount was *saved* by the reduction of the price effected by him?"

Answer. Since 1821 there have been 853,000 pieces of parchment purchased. The price prior to that date was 30 cents per piece, and was reduced immediately after Mr. Moore's incumbency to 14 cents, and since gradually as low as 8 and 6 cents per piece. The saving in this article to the government, by this reduction from the original price, will amount to at least \$140,000.

The prices paid now vary from 6 to 10 cents per piece. Parchment at 6 cents per piece is very inferior in quality; at 10 cents, a fine article is furnished.

6. "What were the general rules established in the General Land Office during Mr. Moore's incumbency, relative to the disbursement of the contingent funds of the general and district land offices? and what agency had Mr. Moore in the establishment of said general rules?"

Answer. The general rules respecting the disbursement of the contingent funds, as above, it is believed, were *all* established by Mr. Moore, upon principles of the most rigid economy which could be practised, and no expenditure permitted which could possibly be avoided or postponed, compatible with the prompt discharge of the public business.

7, and finally. "What services did Mr. Moore perform which did not properly appertain to the office of chief clerk while that office was holden, and the duties of it executed, by Mr. Moore?"

Answer. Under the 2d section of the act of 25th April, 1812, and 2d section of the act of 4th July, 1836, the duties of the Commissioner devolved on, and were discharged by Mr. Moore, in addition to those of his own desk, whenever that officer was absent, or detained from office by sickness or any other cause.

With great respect, your obedient servant,

JAMES H. PIPER,
Acting Commissioner.

Hon. WILLIAM WOODBRIDGE,
Senate United States.

Exhibit in regard to the respective and aggregate periods during which the memorialist claims to have had under his control and management the affairs of the General Land Office, from 1821 to 1845, inclusive.

The second Commissioner of the General Land Office, Josiah Meigs, esq., under whose incumbency I entered upon the duties of chief clerk of that office, estimable as he was as a gentleman and a man of literature, was nevertheless *most notoriously unskilled* in all matters pertaining to the *practical duties and efficient management* of the General Land Office. From the 16th March, 1821, the date of my appointment, until the 4th September, 1822, when he died, I claim to have had the *sole management*

of the *duties* and *details* of the land system, *commencing* with the intricate and complex operations under the relief law of 2d March, 1821, a period of - 1 5 18
 During *Mr. McLean's* term, (from 4th September, 1822, to the 30th June, 1823, when he resigned,) he was absent three months, viz: from the 4th March, 1823, to 31st May following, during which interval I of course had in charge the entire affairs, and carried into effect the relief law passed 3d March, 1823, signing as chief clerk, without any formal acting appointment - - - - - 0 3 0

Mr. Graham held the office from 1st July, 1823, until the 8th of August, 1830, when he died—a term of 7 years, 1 month, and 7 days. He was absent from the office, because of his extreme illness, *six months* before he died. It was during his administration that the House resolution of 8th February, 1823, was answered, as called for by the President's (Monroe) report, dated 28th March, 1824, constituting House document No. 128, 1st session 18th Congress, in relation to *lead mines* and *salt springs*. I affirm that the entire research and preparation of that report for the signature of *Mr. Graham* devolved on myself, as set forth in the testimonial of *Mr. George Wood*, filed among my papers - - - - - 0 6 0

Mr. Hayward, next in order of time, was in office from 30th September, 1830, to 31st August, 1835—five years nearly. I claim to have had the *virtual management* of all the concerns of the office during the *major portion* of his term of office, for reasons well known in the departments, as also to some of the existing Senators and members of the House of Representatives, to whom, if necessary, I could make reference.

It was during *Mr. Hayward's* administration that the larger portion of the most important regulations was adopted that now govern the action of the local land officers and the surveyors general in the various details of their duties. I need not detail them, as they can be found in *Birchard's* compilation of "laws, instructions, and opinions," in relation to public lands. I can and do affirm, that not one of the numerous and elaborate circulars bearing *Mr. Hayward's* signature was drawn up or even suggested by him; but that they were devised and prepared by myself, at extra hours at home—all *night work*; and moreover, that the elaborate instruction to the registers and receivers, dated 25th May, 1831, (see pages 444 to 452 of *Birchard's Digest*,) was prepared for his signature without his previous knowledge; and that the detailed instructions to the *surveyors*

general, of which an example will be found on pages 915 to 922 of said digest, were fully prepared and completed by myself, at *extra hours at night, during his absence* at the springs, for his signature on his return, whilst I was acting commissioner, and could have legally given the instruction myself, but which I held in reserve for him, as part and parcel of the means I was constantly adopting to endeavor to bolster up his reputation. Were I to restrict the period of my claim to the virtual management of the land office, in his term, to the *one half portion* of time, which would be a very low calculation, it would amount to two years and six months. - 2 6 0

The labor of devising the principles of the reorganization act of 1836, in connexion with its accompanying report, devolved (for by far the greater part) on myself, as did also the subsequent arrangements for carrying the act into effect. Subsequent to that act, there were numerous changes of incumbents of the office of Commissioner. By reason of those changes, including *interregnums*, I claim, *from the necessity of the case*, to have *virtually* had the management of the office for *seventeen or eighteen months*, at a low estimate; my labors and peculiar services occupying a *vast amount of extra time by night* as well as by day, devoted to various plannings of reorganization before the *consummation* of the elaborate report and plan submitted to Congress; and after the passage of the reorganization act, there were various new labors and plannings of every imaginable description, preliminary to carrying into effect the provisions of that law—superadded duties, which inevitably devolved on the chief clerk..... 1 5 0

Constituting, at a very moderate calculation, an aggregate of..... 6 1 18

Six years, one month, and eighteen days of time, during which the virtual control, responsibility, and effective management of the General Land Office, with its very numerous and extended relations, devolved on myself as the chief clerk, constituted by the law as the second subordinate authority. Instead of having exaggerated, I am sure the term has been underrated; but I would most respectfully and earnestly desire and request that the committee *will do me the justice to verify* my statements, by a call on the Commissioner of the General Land Office for the best information that his office or the department can afford in the premises.

All which is most respectfully submitted.

JOHN M. MOORE.

Certificate in reference to the services of John M. Moore as chief clerk of the General Land Office, from gentlemen of the Treasury Department, dating back to a period beyond that of any one now remaining in that office.

The undersigned were clerks in the Treasury Department during the term of service of the late Josiah Meigs, Commissioner of the General Land Office, when Mr. John M. Moore was appointed chief clerk of that office.

They well recollect, as a matter of notoriety, at the time, in the public departments, the *weight of the responsibility*, and the *entire management* of the duties of that office, devolved upon Mr. Moore as chief clerk; requiring of him peculiar and extraordinary devotion to the public service, from the commencement of his entrance upon the duties of said chief clerkship, both by *night* as well as by day, at the risk and sacrifice of his health, and to the almost total exclusion of his private affairs.

In the latter part of Mr. Meigs's incumbency, when Mr. Moore acted as chief clerk, the Land Office passed through its well-known and harassing stages, growing out of the heavy and complicated operation of the *relief system*, which commenced immediately on his appointment to that office. To this early period of Mr. Moore's incumbency there are probably few, if any, remaining in the General Land Office, who can date so far back. It was further matter of notoriety, that during the subsequent administrations of that office, Mr. Moore encountered very large and peculiar responsibilities in addition to those properly pertaining to him as chief clerk, consequent on the long *continued absence* and indisposition of the different Commissioners, particularly during the term of Mr. Hayward's service. All which is well remembered by the undersigned, and can doubtless be more especially verified by many gentlemen now of the General Land Office.

JAMES McCLERY,
JAMES LARNED,
MICH'L. NOURSE,
JNO. D. BARCLAY,
JNO. UNDERWOOD,
WM. B. RANDOLPH,
JNO. B. BLAKE,
N. B. VAN ZANDT.

The following are the heads of duties which devolved on the memorialist, as the chief clerk of the General Land Office.

1. The great relief law of 2d March, 1821: The unremitted application, vigilance, and care, by night as well as by day, demanded of him in carrying this law into effect, was *notorious*, but cannot now be expected to be duly estimated. This law, and its many supplements in after years, wound up, in small sums and by complex

provisions, the heavy credit system land debt of nearly \$22,000,000. The provisions of the original act, and of its subsequent modification by supplementary acts in after years, were truly a science which deterred *voluntary* investigation, in all the peculiarities of its bearings, from any quarter. This portion of Land Office difficulty continued for *ten* years; and he had a devising as well as supervising agency in the execution of *all* those remedial acts.

2. The numerous new land districts, and the modified boundaries of old districts; also new *surveying departments* created since the year 1821 inclusive: His was the duty of preparing *all* the instructions to carry those numerous laws into effect; some of the most important of which laws were of his own *suggesting*, with a view to improve the system, and the better to meet the wants of the growing west. To enter into details would be to *inflict a volume* on the committee, which he knows could not be expected to be read.

3. Preparing the necessary instructions under the various laws authorizing the issuing of *military land scrip*, commencing in 1830.

4. Preparing the necessary instructions under the laws (with one exception a few years ago) granting pre-emption rights, commencing in 1830.

5. Preparing the necessary instructions in relation to the numerous examinations required by law, from time to time, of the United States land offices, and also of the offices of the surveyors general.

6. The responsibility of managing and economizing the contingent expenditures of the General Land Office, amounting, during the incumbency of the memorialist, to \$434,000; and which, for reasons elsewhere explained, would have amounted to some *largely increased sum*, varying in estimate from *ten* to *fifty* per cent., but for the means devised, and invariably prosecuted by the memorialist, to act as a faithful steward of the public money intrusted to his exclusive custody and management.

7. *Originating* and *preparing* circulars of instruction to the local land offices on *all* subjects of their duties, as rendered necessary from time to time since 1821; with *probably* the exception of three instances, during *one* of which I was absent to endeavor to improve my health, and communicated to the office, from a short distance out of town, my views of the requisite instruction under a pre-emption law, but which failed to arrive in time.

8. The superintending of all the various descriptions of printing required by the office—forms, abstracts, circulars, &c.—at all times.

9. The systematising of the action of the *local land offices*, by a set of detailed specific instructions, embracing all the minutiae of the respective duties of a register and receiver.—Circular of 25th May, 1831; compilation 445 to 452.

10. The systematising, years ago, of the duties of the surveyors general, so as to produce a unity and harmony of action and conduct in *all the details of the surveying department*; a service vastly important, because of the diversity of action and conduct which then existed in regard to most important details in the field operations by the deputy surveyors, as well as in the offices of the sur-

veyors general ; each surveyor general claiming to act under his own construction of the *general principles* of law regulating the public surveys; and hence, as may be readily conceived, arose great diversity of action amongst them. Thus was the responsibility assumed by the General Land Office to regulate a great variety of matters which the law itself failed to provide for, and which has resulted in a permanent improvement of the surveying system.

11. The allotment of duties amongst the clerks of the office at all times, under the various administrations of the office since 1821.

12. The preparation at different periods of nearly all the "annual" reports or exhibits made to Congress by different commissioners, setting forth the progress of the service, with specific recommendations and suggestions for legislative consideration.

13. Making suggestions, at all different periods since 1821, of such measures having reference to public lands, sectional benefit, or general improvement of the system, as in his humble judgment would be advantageous or save time and expense of special legislation; and in very numerous instances, *when requested so to do*, submitting for consideration to congressional committees, or individual members of Congress, programmes of such legislative provisions as might improve the system, or be best adapted to the accomplishment of an object under consideration ; and which were very generally adopted.

14. Charged with the responsibility of various matters of special legislation: As an instance, the issuing (*during the absence* of Commissioner Whitcomb on a visit to the west, in 1838) of the instructions to the United States commissioner, appointed by the President under the act of 18th June, 1838, to determine the boundary line between Missouri and Iowa, printed with the letter of the Secretary of State of 30th January, 1839.—See House document, (executive paper) No. 128, volume 4, 3d session of 25th Congress.

General superintendency.

60
60 Exercising a general supervision over every branch of duty—surveys, accounts, book-keeping, patent-righting, and correspondence, besides *conducting* a heavy correspondence on miscellaneous and special matters ; transferring clerks from one duty to another, as occasion required ; prescribing modes and forms of business, as occasion demanded; superintending the transmission of all needful supplies of books and forms to the local land offices ; attending to the necessary renewal, at various periods, of the worn-out and mutilated tract books of the local land offices ; constantly consulted respecting the proper mode of answering inquiries by clerks charged with special subjects; deciding on the proper allowances to registers and receivers for their contingent expenses, as their accounts came up from time to time for quarterly adjustment ; allotting duties among the messengers and packers; superintending the issue of new land proclamations, and every description of anomalous duty—such as providing all the office furniture and fixtures ; ordering the permanent filing away of papers ; the binding up of the land office

monthly returns ; making all the required contracts, and auditing all the bills for contingent expenses.

JNO. M. MOORE.

Statement showing the amount of public lands sold, and purchase money received therefor, yearly, from 1821 to 1845, inclusive.

Years.	Acres.	Purchase money.
1821.....	782,459.39	\$1,123,392 52
1822.....	709,997.68	908,817 25
1823.....	652,093.85	847,607 99
1824.....	737,048.40	947,086 67
1825.....	998,985.33	1,392,324 55
1826.....	848,082.26	1,128,617 27
1827.....	926,727.76	1,318,105 36
1828.....	965,600.36	1,221,357 99
1829.....	1,244,860.01	1,572,863 54
1830.....	1,929,733.79	2,433,432 94
1831.....	2,777,856.88	3,557,023 76
1832.....	2,462,342.16	3,115,376 09
1833.....	3,856,227.56	4,972,284 84
1834.....	4,658,218.71	6,099,981 04
1835.....	12,564,478.85	15,999,804 11
1836.....	20,074,870.92	25,167,833 06
1837.....	5,601,103.12	7,007,523 04
1838.....	3,414,907.42	4,305,564 64
1839.....	4,976,382.87	6,464,556 78
1840.....	2,236,889.74	2,789,637 53
1841.....	1,164,796.11	1,463,364 06
1842.....	1,131,217.58	1,415,972 06
1843.....	1,605,264.16	2,016,044 30
1844.....	1,754,563.13	2,207,678 04
1845.....	1,743,695.94	2,468,276 51

TITLES OF THE LAWS GRANTING RELIEF TO PURCHASERS UNDER THE CREDIT SYSTEM.

Act of 2d March, 1821.

“ An act for the relief of the purchasers of public lands prior to the first day of July, eighteen hundred and twenty.”

Act of 20th April, 1822.

“ An act supplementary to the act entitled ‘ An act for the relief

of the purchasers of public lands prior to the first day of July, eighteen hundred and twenty.”

Act of 3d March, 1823.

“An act further to extend the provisions of the act entitled ‘An act supplementary to an act entitled an act for the relief of the purchasers of public lands prior to the first day of July, one thousand eight hundred and twenty.’”

Act of 18th May, 1824.

“An act to provide for the extinguishment of the debt due to the United States by the purchasers of public lands.”

Act of 26th May, 1824.

“An act explanatory of an act entitled ‘An act to provide for the extinguishment of the debt due to the United States by the purchasers of public lands,’ approved on the eighteenth of May, one thousand eight hundred and twenty-four.”

Act of 4th May, 1826.

“An act making further provision for the extinguishment of the debt due to the United States by the purchasers of public lands.”

Act of 21st March, 1828.

“An act to revive and continue in force the several acts making provision for the extinguishment of the debt due the United by the purchasers of the public lands.”

Act of 23d May, 1828.

“An act for the relief of purchasers of the public lands that have reverted for non-payment of the purchase money.”

Act of 31st March, 1830.

“An act for the relief of the purchasers of public lands, and for the suppression of fraudulent practices at the public sales of the lands of the United States.”

Act of 25th February, 1831.

“An act supplemental to an act passed on the thirty-first March, one thousand eight hundred and thirty, entitled ‘An act for the relief of purchasers of public lands, and for the suppression of fraudulent practices at the public sales of lands of the United States.’”

Act of 9th July, 1832.

“An act to amend an act entitled ‘An act for the relief of purchasers of the public lands that have reverted for non-payment of

the purchase money,' passed twenty-third day of May, one thousand eight hundred and twenty-eight."

TITLES OF ACTS GRANTING PRE-EMPTION RIGHTS TO SETTLERS UPON
PUBLIC LANDS.

Act of 29th May, 1830.

"An act to grant pre-emption rights to settlers on public lands."

Act of 14th July, 1832.

"An act supplemental to the act 'granting the right of pre-emption to settlers on the public lands,' approved the twenty-ninth day of May, eighteen hundred and thirty."

Act of 2d March, 1833.

"An act to revive the act entitled 'An act supplementary to the several laws for the sale of public lands.'"

Act of 19th June, 1834.

"An act to revive the act entitled 'An act to grant pre-emption rights to settlers on the public lands,' approved May twenty-nine, one thousand eight hundred and thirty."

Act of 22d June, 1838.

"An act to grant pre-emption rights to settlers on the public lands."

Act of 1st June, 1840.

"An act supplemental to the act entitled 'An act to grant pre-emption rights to settlers on the public lands,' approved June twenty-second, eighteen hundred and thirty-eight."

Act of 4th September, 1841.

"An act to appropriate the proceeds of the sales of public lands and to grant pre-emption rights."

Act of 26th August, 1842.

"An act to confirm the sale of public lands in certain cases."

Act of 3d March, 1843.

"An act to authorize the investigation of alleged frauds under the pre-emption laws, and for other purposes."

THE TITLES OF LAWS GRANTING OR SANCTIONING SCRIP TO BE ISSUED
IN SATISFACTION OF REVOLUTIONARY ARMY LAND WARRANTS.

Act of 30th May, 1830.

"An act for the relief of certain officers and soldiers of the Virginia line and navy, and of the continental army, during the revolutionary war."

Act of 13th July, 1832.

"An act to extend the time of issuing military land warrants to officers and soldiers of the revolutionary army."

Act of 2d March, 1833.

"An act granting an additional quantity of land for the location of revolutionary bounty land warrants."

Act of 3d March, 1835.

"An act making appropriations for the civil and diplomatic expenses of the government for the year one thousand eight hundred and thirty-five."

The 2d section of this act has reference to scrip.

The following statement is respectfully submitted for the purpose of apprizing those not intimately acquainted with his character, of the degree of interest taken in the public service by the memorialist from his earliest connexion with it.

He adverts to the strenuous exertions in which he ardently participated, in August, 1814, on the eve of the capture of the metropolis by the British, in saving from the wanton designs of the enemy the invaluable archives of the General Land Office, with which he then but recently had become associated.

Having sought permission of Governor Tiffin, the then commissioner, to connect himself with a favorite volunteer corps, in which all his draughted colleagues were enrolled, he was told that, as only two or three besides himself remained to do office duty, his "better duty" was to stand by the office until the issue of matters. He accordingly remained during all the exigency, laboring in packing up the archives; and residing in the immediate vicinity of the Treasury Department, he was therefore at hand, when others, being at a distance, (some in Georgetown,) could not be summoned at the critical hour when the wagons, which had been so long looked for, arrived; they having been with difficulty obtained to transport the articles into the country a few miles. This, be it noted was in the midst of a panic; the wildest consternation having seized all

classes of society, with *rare*, if any exception, seeking a presumed security in flight; the streets thronged with vehicles, conveying goods and furniture away from town; laborers, even, turning a deaf ear to proposals to hire.

Sensibly alive to the vast interests involved in the salvation of the records, &c., and of the important consequences connected with considerate conduct, at that *most eventful moment*, on the part of public servants at hand, your memorialist (other aid being unattainable for "love or money") exerted himself greatly beyond his natural physical powers in assisting the few negro wagoners to transport the cumbrous boxes and cases from one extreme of the long building to the other, down two long flights of stairs, the Land Office being in the extreme west end of the *second story*; and this principally by candle-light, at the close of one of the most sultry and oppressive days ever known in this latitude. The loads were so enormous for the small number of wagons that could be procured, that the affrighted teamsters, anxious to hurry off, refused to take all, insisting on leaving no inconsiderable portion, which, if left, must in all probability have perished, for I (although remaining in town) could not have pretended to save the residue for want of help. Knowing this, the chief clerk and myself spared no species either of entreaty or denunciation, to constrain the teamsters to take all that had been selected as *indispensable to be saved*, while a large amount of old papers, *of little or no public import*, *had to be left* in the Treasury building, for want of an additional wagon.

Many other officers were less successful in saving the public property, because of want of cool and considerate conduct on the part of those in whose custody things were left, while the major portion of the clerks were called on military duty. Masses of cancelled and useless documents were carefully preserved; while numerous others, whose loss has not and cannot be supplied, were through ignorance and alarm together, unconsciously left to perish.

JNO. M. MOORE.

I am probably the only survivor of the times who can best testify to the truth of the foregoing statement. I was a clerk in the Treasury Department, but on military duty, at the period mentioned. I was then next-door neighbor to Mr. Moore, and can certify that the foregoing were the facts ascertained by me a few days after their occurrence, on my return to the city.

JAMES McCLERY.

GENERAL LAND OFFICE, *December 12, 1846.*

SIR: In reply to your letter of the 10th instant, requesting to be furnished with a list of prices paid by this office since 1820, for

parchments for patents, I have to enclose you a copy of my letter of 9th June last, containing the information desired.

I am, sir, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

JAMES H. PIPER,
Acting Commissioner.

JOHN M. MOORE, Esq.,
Washington city.

GENERAL LAND OFFICE, *June 9, 1846.*

SIR: In reply to your note of yesterday, I have to inform you that the prices paid for parchment of the size 10 by 16, from 1821 to 1845, are as follows:

In 1821, 6,000 pieces were purchased at 11 cents.

From 1822 to 1837, the price paid was 14 cents.

From 1838 to 1840, the price paid was 13 cents.

In 1841, the price paid was 11 cents.

From 1843 to 1844, the price paid was 9 cents.

First half of 1845, the price paid was 8 cents.

Last half of 1845, the price paid was 6 cents.

As appears from the contingent books of this office.

I am, sir, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

JAMES H. PIPER,
Acting Commissioner.

JOHN M. MOORE, Esq.,
Washington City.

GENERAL LAND OFFICE, *May 22, 1846.*

SIR: As you requested in your note to Mr. Dekrafft, and by him referred to me, I have caused a copy of the report therein referred to, of 9th February, 1821, in relation to the cost of printing patents, to be made and hereto annexed.

After a careful search, the statement referred to in said letter, and forming part of the report, cannot be found on record; nor does it appear from the files that the letter or its enclosures were returned by the Secretary.

With great respect, your obedient servant,

JAMES H. PIPER,
Acting Commissioner.

J. M. MOORE, Esq.,
Washington city.

GENERAL LAND OFFICE, *February 9, 1821.*

SIR: I received the anonymous letter which you were so friendly as to send me. As I have not heard from Mr. Culbreth on the

subject, I transmit, herewith, a statement showing the prices paid for printing patents at different periods, accompanied by the copies of the printer's accounts. The originals are in the office of the Register. By this statement, it will be seen that the public originally paid 62½ cents each for the patents for lands NW. of the river Ohio; that when the work was given to printers who were clerks in this office, the price was reduced to 40 cents; and that when Mr. Gardner imported parchment from Philadelphia for those printers, he sold it lower than they had been supplied before, and reduced the price of patents to 30 cents. I also send the affidavit of Mr. Gardiner, that he never received a proposal such as is mentioned in the anonymous letter.

I am, &c., &c.

The SECRETARY OF THE TREASURY.

If the departments of War and Navy issue commissions to officers upon parchment, the prices paid by those departments may be compared with the prices paid by this office for printed parchment.

J. M.

NEW YORK, May 1, 1846.

I hereby state, that, in the year 1821, I was appointed a clerk in the General Land Office, and was assigned to a desk connected with the correspondence of the office, and consequently in immediate intercourse with the chief clerk, John M. Moore, esq., in whose room I was so employed. I am consequently well acquainted with the great and unceasing labor imposed upon him, especially by the passage of the great relief law of 1821, and which was attended to by him *at his own home, out of office hours*, as the current business of the office, always great on his desk, demanded all his time while at the office; and this continued for a series of years.

And this fact I well recollect, from being a near neighbor, and being often called upon to aid him at night. The mass of labor then imposed upon Mr. Moore, as chief clerk, cannot now well be appreciated. The printed instructions were received by land officers but little versed in so tangled a net-work of forms, and accounts, and abstracts, as were required in the execution of this act; and though they were deemed a most masterly effort of arrangement, yet they were but imperfectly understood: mistakes were to be corrected; perplexities to be solved; examples to be given; and that this act was so eminently successful, executed, as it was, by registers and receivers so little versed with complicated accounts, is to be attributed mainly to the labors of Mr. Moore.

Nor was this the only instance in which Mr. Moore's time and talents were tasked to perform, out of office hours, the business of the office. I well recollect that the important report on lead mines and salt springs (document House of Representatives No. 128, 1st session 18th Congress) was prepared by him at his own house,

and it is my impression that it was copied by me at his house. This report was under a resolution addressed to the President, and by the President referred to the War Department. After resting there awhile, it was referred to the treasury, and from the treasury to the General Land Office. Here it remained unanswered, from the difficulties attending the call of the House; and Mr. McLean resigning, his successor, George Graham, to whom the whole business of the office was *new, assigned the task* to Mr. Moore, by whom this report, in those days deemed so interesting and important, was prepared out of office hours, and at his own home.

I have further to state that I remained in the land office till the year 1830; that during all the time I was in that office my relations were intimately connected with the correspondence of the office, and I am well acquainted with the constant and almost daily custom of Mr. Moore to devote extra time to the business of the office, and which *was made necessary* in reply to the calls so often made during the sessions of Congress.

These are facts well known to the then Committee on Public Lands of both houses of Congress, as well as those few old clerks who still remain connected with the Treasury Department.

GEORGE WOOD,

Formerly of the Treasury Department, now of New York.

— — —
WASHINGTON, November 20, 1846.

MY DEAR SIR: I have attentively perused your "explanatory statements" in reference to your memorial to Congress, praying to be paid a small sum on account of unrequited services performed during your connexion with the General Land Office, in the capacity of chief clerk, acting Commissioner, &c.

It gives me great pleasure, sir—and I consider it a mere act of justice—to bear testimony to the truth of your statements. This I am enabled to do from my own personal knowledge for nearly half the period referred to, during which time I had ample opportunities for observation, especially the seven years, (from 1836,) when the performance of my own duties as late principal clerk of the surveys brought us oftener together than any other clerks in the office.

The venerable Gallatin, when Secretary of the Treasury, sketched the grand outlines of the land system, then in its infancy, being confined to only one or two States, but which now extends over the immense surface of twelve States and Territories, in which it is in active operation. With truth may it be said, without touching one leaf of the well deserved laurels which bind the brows of the several Commissioners appointed during your incumbency in office—among whom were numbered some of the choice spirits of the land—that next to Mr. Gallatin there is no man to whom the country is more largely indebted than yourself, for directing, shaping, and perfecting the land system as it now exists, amidst trials and difficulties which few men could have surmounted, and

certainly none could have endured with more untiring patience and industry. The land laws, and the history and records of the General Land Office, for the last *twenty-five* years, bear the familiar impress of your hand in every department of the business. Nor is this all: in the disbursement of the very large contingent fund, appropriated by Congress from time to time for the office, including all the heavy outlays for parchments and books—of which fund you had almost the exclusive charge during the whole period—your *economy* has become proverbial, and I do not hesitate to say that by careful management, beyond what is even customary, (witness your public proposals for contracts, issued many years before the salutary law on that subject recently enacted by Congress,) you have saved to the government more than your aggregate compensation during your incumbency in office.

These objects were all effected by the most patient labor, performed at all hours of the day and night, at home as well as at the office. Oftentimes whilst others (having complied with the mere legal requirements) were taking their ease, *you* were found at your post quietly laboring with a devotion and self-sacrificing spirit equalled only by that philanthropy for which you are so remarkable among those who best know you: not looking to the mere pecuniary reward, but to that highest of all human motives, the happiness of your fellow-men.

Your application, and the circumstances attending it, present, in my humble judgment, no ordinary case. Had you pursued your own pecuniary interests with only half the ardor and devotion bestowed by you during the prime part of your existence on those of the government, this application would have been rendered totally unnecessary, and I am sure would never have been made but under the most trying circumstances, alluded to in your memorial.

The sum asked by you is no equivalent. It falls very far short, I think, of the amount that would compensate you for the many valuable services rendered, over and above the mere legal requirements of your late important station, and, what money cannot purchase, the sacrifice of your health on the altar of the public good. Instead of the value of eight or ten sections of public land at government price, which you claim, the price of a full township of thirty-six sections would come nearer to justice; and were Congress, in its munificence, to grant the last mentioned amount, it would, in my opinion, be hailed with the approbation of a large portion of the country, particularly of the west and southwest.

I most sincerely wish your application that successful issue which it so richly deserves, and remain your friend and obedient servant,

WM. T. STEIGER,

Late Principal Clerk of Surveys.

JOHN M. MOORE, Esq.,

Late Chief Clerk of the General Land Office.

NEW HOPE, *May 11, 1846.*

DEAR SIR: Your favor of the 5th instant was received on my return from an absence of a week from home. I remember very distinctly that the duties of the Commissioner of the Land Office devolved on you for a considerable time during the illness of Mr. Graham, and that this happened when the public service in that office was attended with much labor and responsibility, owing to the operation of the pre-emption law, out of which many difficult questions arose, which necessarily led to unusual correspondence. The investigation of numerous frauds in Arkansas was also attended with considerable labor, which, owing to the feeble health of Mr. Graham, mainly devolved on you. Frequent references to the department during that period made me acquainted with the details of this class of business in the General Land Office, as also the care and skill and judgment exercised by yourself in the management of them. I have not so distinct a recollection of particulars after Mr. Hayward was appointed, but have reason to know that from other causes the duties and responsibilities of the General Land Office must have devolved mainly on yourself during that period also.

I remain, with much respect, your obedient servant,

S. D. INGHAM.

JOHN M. MOORE.

WASHINGTON, *December 21, 1846.*

DEAR SIR: I have read your memorial to Congress with interest, and knowing, as I do, your great merit as chief clerk in the General Land Office, I cannot but feel a deep interest in the success of your application. I am sure that no officer at Washington has done as much service to the public for so long a period, and at so small a compensation, as yourself. Having been in the land office a few months, I can testify as to your efficiency and unsurpassed industry. But few persons could have borne the confinement to public duty which you endured, and still fewer could have performed the amount of labor which you have performed.

And I deem it just to say that your labors were highly important to the public, and involved great personal responsibility. They not only embraced the details of the office with which you were familiar, but the entire land system of the country in all its changes and intricacies. A knowledge of this system was essential to the performance of your duties; and to attain this, required no common capacity and mental effort.

With very great respect, your obedient servant,

JOHN McLEAN.

JOHN M. MOORE, Esq.

Extract of a letter from Elijah Hayward to the Hon. Mr. King, chairman of the Committee on Public Lands, dated General Land Office, January 23, 1832.

“In the bill submitted, providing for clerks in this office, it will be seen that one clerk is contemplated at \$1,700 per annum. This is intended for the *chief clerk*, and the compensation named is that which has been heretofore allowed for that situation. I would respectfully recommend that it be increased to two thousand dollars, to be in proportion to others whose duties are much less, and whose labor is not half as great as that required of the same situation in the land office. My chief clerk, in addition to other qualifications, must have a particular knowledge of the laws, and parts of laws, having any relation to, or connexion with, the land system of the United States, including private land claims of every description, the variety of military bounty lands, all reservations contained in Indian treaties, and donations to States, corporations, and individuals, and the manner and form in which these laws are executed. He is also required to possess a knowledge of all the details of office duty, through all the ramifications of its multiplied concerns, and, under the Commissioner, has a general superintendence over all the clerks in the department, and the books and files of papers which constitute its archives. In addition to which, among other duties, he is charged with the immense miscellaneous correspondence of the office, frequently requiring a very laborious examination of the laws, circulars of instructions, previous decisions of the Secretary of the Treasury on the same subject, and the rules and principles settled by the Supreme Court of the United States. To accomplish this arduous duty, the time allotted for office business is not sufficient, and he is often compelled to devote his mornings and evenings, before and after office hours, to the public service, without any additional compensation therefor. For these reasons, and many others which I could enumerate, I am well convinced that the talents, labor, and industry necessary to the discharge of those duties are greater than are required of any other chief clerk under the executive departments of the government; and I know of no good reason why he should not receive equal compensation. I have great pleasure in stating that the present chief clerk in this office merits my entire approbation, and the suggestion herein made to increase his salary is not only without his request and solicitation, but without his knowledge, and is considered an act of justice, on the part of government, to a faithful, laborious, and meritorious public servant.”

MAY 6, 1838.

DEAR SIR : I perceive that a memorial of yours has been presented in the Senate, asking additional compensation for your services in the General Land Office.

Considering the judgment, responsibility, and labor that have

been required of you during the period since the passage of the relief law in 1821, not only as chief clerk, but repeatedly as acting Commissioner, I see no good reason against rating your services, in the former character, equal to those of either of the chief clerks in the executive departments, nor why additional compensation should be denied you for the time when the whole weight of superintending the operations of the land department devolved on you in the capacity of acting Commissioner. Whatever benefit the public may have derived from the relief and pre-emption laws, it cannot be doubted that they rendered the administration of the General Land Office more complicated, difficult, and laborious.

Your cotemporaries in the office, during all the earlier part of the period referred to, can best explain the nature of the increased duties thrown on you by these enactments; and by the accidents that placed you from time to time at the head of the office, with and without commission, and from what I witnessed of your zeal, intelligence, and industry during the immense sales, pressure of pre-emption cases, and other accumulated business, while the General Land Office was under my charge, I cannot doubt the merit of your claim to a further allowance, and take pleasure in acknowledging the assistance I derived from your long experience under the land system, your diligence and acquaintance with the various ramifications of the service, and in offering you this testimonial of your merits, to be used if it can serve you.

With friendly esteem, your obedient servant,

ETHAN A. BROWN.

JOHN M. MOORE, Esq.

INDIANAPOLIS, *May 23, 1846.*

MY DEAR SIR: I regret that a necessary absence from home prevented me from getting your letter, which was forwarded to me at this place, until yesterday. It is needless for me to assure you that I read the announcement of your removal from office with real pain. I had heard, in advance of the event, that it would be so, but I did not believe it. I did not believe, after having been the faithful and vigilant servant of the government in one of its most responsible and arduous posts for thirty years, that in your old age you would be turned out to make place for any one, however meritorious. I very much wish that those who have done the deed could have known, as I have, how faithfully and how unremittingly you have toiled for the government: had they known this, you would have been spared; I feel sure of it. But it is too late now to repine. I have learned that your pecuniary affairs are embarrassed; that you are poor, and that you are out of employment. You ask me to state what I may consider the character of your official services, so far as they came under my observation, and are within my knowledge.

I wish very much that I could enter into a partial detail of the various duties which you performed, and the unceasing assiduity,

in and out of office hours, with which you watched over the various branches of the Land Office department.

While I was at the head of that office, the clerical force of the office was something like ninety. To you was entrusted the entire supervision and direction of the whole, under the general allotment of duties established by the head of the office. To you each head of a particular branch, and each clerk assigned to that branch, continually applied for instruction and direction; and it is due to you to say that you were not only my instructor in the details of business, but my continual adviser in reference to all the important transactions and regulations of the office. In the midst of all the political excitements which at one time, while I was there, disturbed the harmony of the Treasury Department—an excitement consequent upon a change of administrations—I never found you failing in your duty to the government, or towards those with whom you were officially connected. I was never able to detect the slightest act of injustice on your part towards a single clerk in the office, but found you ever bearing prompt testimony in favor of the meritorious, without reference to political relations; and that too, when your temper had been severely tried by the toils of business, and the ill-tempered remarks of those who were not your friends. When, by the rules of the office, others were exempt from further labor, you have been compelled to be there; and I well remember that it was a common practice with you, when you did not return to, or remain in, the office after office hours, to carry to your own home, and there digest and prepare, business for the next day. This you were not bound to do, although it was your almost daily practice while I was there.

Will not the government, with a full knowledge of these things, in some way repair the injustice which has been done to you? Surely the spirit of justice is still stronger than the spirit of party. I wish very much that I could in some way aid you, for I entertain a very lively remembrance of your friendship for me, and of your many good services. I am no longer in political life; and when I look back upon the past I am amazed that any man, in his senses, would leave his home and his State to take office at Washington; and yet there are many things connected with my brief stay there which I recall with pleasure—not the least of which is, that on leaving the Land Office I feel sure that I parted with many friends among those officially connected with me, and with but few enemies.

I remain truly your friend,

E. M. HUNTINGTON.

JNO. M. MOORE, Esq.

TERRE HAUTE, INDIANA,
May 14, 1846.

DEAR SIR: I have received your letter of the 5th instant, requesting from me a statement relative to the utility and value of

your services whilst the chief clerk of the General Land Office. During the time I was the Commissioner there, which was nearly three years, no labor or attention of mine would have enabled me to get on with the various and perplexing duties of that office, with satisfaction to myself or the government, without the aid of your experience and thorough knowledge of them, which I may say I received unremittingly. There is probably no branch of the public service upon which devolve more labor and intense study than the General Land Office; and he who is at the head of the clerical department of it has no enviable post—at least if he feels the same responsibility and acts with the same spirit which have proverbially animated you. Although, according to the organization of the office, there is a chief clerk, there is also a principal clerk of private land claims, a principal clerk of surveys, and others recognised in the office as principal clerks, the duties of all of whom are in some respects connected, but require information and study, each distinct from the others. As chief clerk you assiduously kept up a knowledge of the duties of all these, exercising over them a vigorous superintendence; and in all questions of doubt or magnitude arising in any of them, your advice was uniformly applied for, and generally deferred to, from a conviction that it was right. You also took under your especial charge the numerous accountants and book-keepers, and from the incipient stages of their organization throughout directed and regulated the district land offices. I cannot well enumerate the various duties comprising the burden always pressing upon you; but I recollect having repeatedly said to you at the close of the day, when I observed you apparently in a state of bodily and mental exhaustion, that it was enough to distract you. As to office hours, you strictly observed them, never absenting yourself during that time, but from necessity; and I am not aware that during the whole time I was in office you permitted yourself to be attracted to the Senate or House or Representatives on any occasion. But office hours were not the limit to your services, for it was well known that you were immersed in official business in the office or at home after those hours; and whenever it so happened that I visited the office after my dinner, which was always at a late hour, I generally found you there, working on in silence and solitude. This labor rendered out of season, so far as the law required your services, must have been attended with a great saving to the country, both in time and money. I consider it much indebted to you for it, and for your general fidelity and usefulness, and that the obligation should be more especially acknowledged by that portion of the country which has been so signally benefitted by the land system, and the wholesome administration of it; and should you apply to Congress to be remunerated for extra services, I trust that the claim will meet with a just and liberal consideration.

With high regard, I remain your obedient servant,

THOMAS H. BLAKE.

JOHN M. MOORE, Esq.

GENERAL LAND OFFICE, May 15, 1846.

SIR: At the request of Mr. Moore I have examined the accompanying papers, and if any thing from me would be deemed worthy of consideration, I would cheerfully express an opinion in favor of some allowance. He was chief clerk in this office for many years, and labored in that capacity with unremitting zeal and assiduity.

The claims he presents are recognised by the office as just and equitable. I make these statements at his request, and in what I consider justice to him. I have no personal interest in the matter.

Your obedient servant,

JAMES SHIELDS.

HON. SIDNEY BREESE,

Chairman Committee on Public Lands.

PRECEDENTS.

Act of 3d March, 1807: Secretary of Michigan allowed extra pay for acting as land commissioner. Vol. 4, p. 111.

Act of 3d March, 1807: Extra pay to territorial officers of Indiana for acting in Louisiana. Vol. 4, p. 118.

Act of 30th June, 1797: \$600 additional to Attorney General for services under 6th article of British treaty of 1795. Vol. 3, p. 5.

Act of 3d March, 1801: \$300 additional to chief clerk Navy Department for 1801. Vol. 3, p. 435.

Under the act of reorganization of the General Land Office, passed July 4, 1836, the office of *Recorder* of the General Land Office was established, at an annual compensation of \$1,500; the general appropriation act dated March 3d, 1837, increases the salary of that officer, without enlarging his duties, to \$2,000. Vol. 9, p. 624.

August 23, 1842.—Act for the relief of John Underwood. Mr. Underwood was chief clerk in the office of the First Auditor of the Treasury Department. The act allows him \$1,250 for additional services.

Michael Nourse, chief clerk in the office of Register of the Treasury, was allowed for services as acting Treasurer on several occasions. (See two certificates of the Register of the Treasury herewith.)

Samuel Burche, when chief clerk of the House of Representatives, was allowed for services as acting clerk of that body, at the rate of compensation allowed by law to the clerk. (See certificate of the Register of the Treasury sustaining the fact.)